

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
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News Release

For Immediate Release

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center Invites Detroit Community to Salute Hospitalized Veterans

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, February 13 – 19, 2012

(Detroit) The John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit is set to host visitors, media and volunteers for what will be an exciting week, as the medical center observes the National Salute to Veteran Patients, February 13 – 19, 2012.

"The National Salute to Veteran Patients gives the community a chance to salute those who have given so much to our nation," said Pamela Reeves, M.D., Detroit VA Medical Center Director. "We've invited elected officials, school groups, local celebrities and other individuals to visit our patients during the week. It also allows us to bring some Valentine's Day cheer to our Detroit-area Veterans."

Dr. Reeves said she hopes visitors will also take time to learn more about the important role volunteers play at the medical center throughout the year and perhaps pursue volunteer opportunities.

"Our medical center's 1,200 volunteers are a crucial part of our health care team. The National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the Veterans we serve here at the medical center," said Dr. Reeves. "Visitors are often surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

One event, in particular, which should be noted: John Heller, author and survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, will share his story during a program in the medical center auditorium on Friday, February 17th at 10:00 a.m.

A few additional highlights of the Detroit VA Medical Center's National Salute Week schedule include:

Saturday, February 11th

- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. *Homeless Veteran Outreach Event, Detroit Masonic Temple*
- 2:00 p.m. *Motor City Valentines for Veterans Concert, Detroit Masonic Temple, featuring The Spinners*

Monday, February 13th

- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - *L'Anse Creuse High School freshmen students visit Veterans and will deliver carnations and Valentines cards*
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. *St. Peter Lutheran Church will visit Veterans and deliver comfort items*
- 12:00 p.m. *VFW-A will host horse race with Valentines goodies for patients in Community Living Center*

Tuesday, February 14th

- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Taylor Truman HS ROTC students will visit Veterans and deliver cards*
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - *AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post #57 Valentine's Luncheon & Bingo for Veterans of Day Activity and Partial Hospital Program in B1290*
- 7:00 p.m. - *Shrine of the Little Flower Grade School to visit Veterans and deliver Valentines*

Wednesday, February 15th

- 10:00 a.m. - *Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154 to pass out goodies to Veterans in clinic/FIRM waiting areas*
- NOON – 1:00 p.m. – *Detroit Tigers' mascot PAWS will visit patients*

Thursday, February 16th

- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – *Plymouth ELKS Ice Cream Social in B1290*
- Noon - *Sterling Heights Grace Christian Church members visit patients and deliver comfort items*
- 2:00 p.m. *Polish Legion of American Veterans to host BINGO on B2N*

Friday, February 17th

- 9:00 a.m. - *Craft Kit Distribution to hospitalized Veterans*
- 10:00 a.m. - *U.A.W BINGO in CLC*
- 10:00 a.m. - Noon – *John Heller, Author and survivor of U.S.S. Indianapolis will share his story in medical center auditorium*

Saturday, February 18th

- 9:00 a.m. – *ROTC Cadets from Communication and Media Arts High School to visit Veterans in CLC*
- 10:00 am – *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War pass out goodies*

Sunday, February 19th

- 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Spring Hill Baptist Church Inspiration Flower Circle pass out handmade flower baskets to Veterans in Hospice/Palliative Care ward

For a complete schedule of events, please call (313) 576-3340. For more information about volunteer opportunities, to schedule a visit or to make a donation, please contact the Detroit VA Medical Center Voluntary Service, (313) 576-3332.

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Since 1939, the Detroit VA Medical Center has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location in Detroit. The John D. Dingell VAMC located in Detroit, Michigan is one of the newest VA facilities in the country. We consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.